Ship Mathias Log Book on a Whaling voyage in the Indian Ocean C. Fitch Master 1837

Remarks on Friday 16th June 1837.

Commences with heavy gales from the W.N.W. lying the head to the N.W. Middle and latter part more moderate, made sail & worked in for the Island at 8 A.M. being about 8 Miles from the Island Tp S.S. Bearing towards two Boats pulled in to the Island Killed one Whale at 12 Meridian got him Longside & Ends with fresh breezes from the N.W. three Ships in sight

38.50 S 77.46 E

Saturday 17th June 1837

Fresh breezes from the North and a rough sea cut in the Whale & worked in for the Island. Middle part fresh gales at 8 A.M. was close in with the N.E. Point of the Island but it blew so heavy so Whale stood off to the N.W. at noon tacked in for the Island in Co with Ship Mary & Ends employed boiling

38.00 S 77.50 E

Sunday 18th June 1837

Commences with strong gales from the North at 2 P.M. stood off from the Island to the West at 4 P.M. Meridian blew a heavy gale was obliged to stop boiling at 10 A.M. wore ship to the East latter part since gales from N. to N.W. the Ship Mary in sight so ends lying to under close reefed main top sail & foresail. Stern rack & off deck

38.40 S 77.29 E

Very bad weather

Monday 19th June 1837.

Heavy gales from the North at 2 P.M. wind backed to the S.W. & rained. Wore Ship to the N.E. at 4 P.M. wind hauled back at 8 P.M. set close reefed fore topsail & fore sail. Cannot boiling. Middle and latter part with more moderate at 12 Midnight made the Islands of St Paul at daylight Ran round the lee part of the Island since two Boats in for Whales. Ends with strong gales from the N.W. & Ships in sight

38.45 S 77.00 E

Tuesday 20th June.

Strong gales from the North at 2 P.M. fastened to a Whale began for the weather part of the Island & then in to the Breakers had to cut the line lost three Irons one Spade &c. Middle part strong gales N.W. to S.W. at 7 A.M. St Paul Bore S.W. 15 Miles Ran off for Amsterdam & ends with fine breezes from the W.N.W.

38.30 S 77.55 E

Wednesday 21st June

Fresh breezes from the S.W. at 2 P.M. was off the West part of Amsterdam Island bounce two Boats one pulled in close in for a whale but could find none stood off & on through the night at daylight towards the Boats ran in for the Island fastened to one & drawed the Irons fastened to another got fowl line and had to cut the line saw a number of Whales cut the one long ends & ends with light airs from the South to S.W. in sight

38.00 S 77.40 E

62

Voyage in the Indian Ocean C. Fitch Master 1837

Remarks on Thursday 22d June

Commences with light airs from the South. Boats in a chase of whales at daylight saw Coone onboard. Middle part light airs from the North at 6 A.M. sent two Boats in to land for whales with no success at 11 A.M. Coone on board took water from hole & stowed it off so ends heading to the N.E. wind N.N.W. Ship Lolley Ann in Co

37.10 S 77.19 E

Friday 23d June

Fresh winds from the N.N.W. steering to the N.E. by the wind employed stowing oil in Fore hole. Middle and latter part strong gales from N.N.W. steering to the N.E. in our short sail at 8 A.M. wind hauled to the eastward & ends with fresh gales & squally steering N.b.E. wind west Ship Lolley Ann in Co

38.00 S 77.46 E

Saturday 24th

All these 24 hours fresh breezes from the Westward & Southward steering North by compass at 8 A.M. saw a Bark & Stowaway to the Eastward employed stowing down oil & cleaning Ship & Ship Lolley Ann in Co lat 33.45 S Long 78.00 E

Sunday 25th June 1837.

All these 24 hours fine breezes from W. to W.N.W. steering N.N.E. & N.E. Ship Lolley Ann in Co lat obs 31.14 S. 78.00 E

Remarks on Monday 26th June.

Commences with light airs from the S.S.W. steering N.b.W. by compass. Middle and latter part Calmy got up top gallant masts & yards fore & aft & ends with Calms Ships Lolley Ann in Sight

30.46 S 77.56 E

Tuesday 27th June 1837

Fresh light airs from the North by the wind to the N.W. Middle & latter part fine breezes at noon N.E. the wind hauled to the N.W. tacked to the N.E. so ends with fresh breezes & squally Ship Lolley Ann in Sight on the Quarter

obs lat 32.09 S 77.41 E

Wednesday 28th June

Fresh breezes from the N.W. by the wind to the N.E. Middle and latter part the same wind from N.N.W. to N.W. by the wind to the N.E. employed at various jobs. Ship Lolley Ann in Co. Obs lat 28.54 Long 77.58 E

Thursday 29th June 1837.

Moderate breezes from the N.W. by the wind to the North. Middle and latter part Moderate breezes from the Westward steering N.E. employed at various jobs Ship Lolly Anne in Co Lat Obs 27.27 Long 78.56 E

33

63